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REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, and 24 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 25, and 26 have been amended. Claims 2 – 6, 8 – 18, and 25 – 26 are pending in this Application. Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

Specification

The disclosure was objected to because of an informality. On page 11, line 15, "Fig. 9" has been changed to "Fig. 10" to correct the informality.

Claim Objections

Claims 8 and 26 were objected to because of informalities. In claim 8, line 1, "to" has been inserted after "coupled" to correct the informality. In claim 26, "modules" has been changed to "module" as suggested to correct the informality.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph. The amendment suggested by the Office Action has been incorporated to overcome this rejection.

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Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Claim 24 has been cancelled and thus this rejection is moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 1 and 7 have been cancelled and thus this rejection is moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claim 13 – 18. Claims 2 – 6, 8 – 12 and 25 – 26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, and 25 have been amended accordingly. The Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of all pending claims 2 – 6, 8 – 18, and 25 – 26.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Mary Steubing, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

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For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

2/1/05
Date



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MS/cmm